

Peter Brown, Assistant Director,
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute
(203) 535-6203

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.
Public Relations
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026



FOR RELEASE: JUNE 29, 2011

**VIRGINIA GOV HAS 2-1 APPROVAL RATING,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
VOTERS WANT TO END BAN ON GAY ADOPTIONS**

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell has a strong 55 – 26 percent job approval rating, as many more voters like him personally than back his policies, according to the inaugural Quinnipiac University Virginia poll released today.

The independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll, conducted by live interviewers with registered voters on landlines and cell phones, releases periodic voter surveys of office holders, candidates and issues nationally and in Connecticut, New York, New York City, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida and now Virginia.

“Gov. Bob McDonnell’s overall support levels are among the highest when compared to other governors around the country,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. “And they are far better than those of his GOP counterparts in Florida, Ohio, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Even among Democrats he is within 10 points of parity, an unusually high level of support for a governor from the opposition party.”

McDonnell’s job approval is 77 – 11 percent among Republicans and 59 – 24 percent among independent voters. Democrats disapprove 42 – 33 percent. Men approve of his performance 61 – 25 percent and women approve 50 – 26 percent. White voters approve 58 – 25 percent, while black voters approve 50 – 25 percent.

“The legislature doesn’t rate quite as highly with Virginians, although its 48 – 33 percent approval rating is pretty good compared to legislatures in other states,” said Brown. “No matter whether a governor is up or down in the polls, he or she almost always fares better in the public eye than does the state legislature.”

-more-

Quinnipiac University Poll/June 29, 2011 – page 2

Virginia's other statewide leaders, Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling and Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, also fare well with the public: Bolling gets a 39 – 20 percent approval rating with 42 percent undecided; Cuccinelli gets a 49 – 31 percent approval, with 20 percent undecided.

Virginia voters like Gov. McDonnell personally 57 – 16 percent. But when asked if they like most of his policies, support drops to 48 – 33 percent.

“The biggest difference is among Democrats who like him personally 43 – 28 percent, but dislike his policies 55 – 21 percent. Even with the drop-off from his personal support, a 48 – 33 percent backing of most of his policies isn't bad,” said Brown. “Independent voters like him 61 – 13 percent and like his policies 51 – 31 percent. Republicans like him 72 – 7 percent and like his policies 74 – 13 percent.”

McDonnell receives a 50 – 34 percent approval on handling the state budget. Voters approve 40 – 30 percent of the budget passed by the legislature and signed by McDonnell.

Asked if this budget is fair to people like them, 43 percent say fair and 32 percent unfair.

“In most of the other Quinnipiac University states, voters, often by a large margin, see the budgets as unfair to folks like them. This perception that the budget is fair may explain Gov. McDonnell's approval numbers,” said Brown.

Virginia voters oppose 52 – 41 percent a law that would allow same-sex couples to marry. Men oppose it 55 – 38 percent and women oppose it 49 – 44 percent. Voters under 35 years old support same-sex marriage 63 – 29 percent.

But they support 51 – 43 percent allowing same-sex couples to adopt children. Voters say 51 – 42 percent that policies barring same-sex adoptions should be ended. Voters have different views on state-run and church-run adoption agencies:

- State-run agencies should not ban prospective parents based on sexual orientation, voters say 59 – 35 percent;
- Church-run agencies can continue the ban, voters say by a narrow 48 – 45 percent.

Voters split 41 – 41 percent on continuing the ban on uranium mining in Virginia.

From June 21 – 27, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,434 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.6 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more data or RSS feed– <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	55%	77%	33%	59%	61%	50%	58%	50%	
Disapprove	26	11	42	24	25	26	25	25	
DK/NA	19	13	25	16	14	24	17	25	
	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	COLL No	DEGREE Yes	WtBnAgn Evglcl	POL Lib	PHIL..... Mod	Con
Approve	45%	58%	60%	57%	54%	63%	27%	55%	73%
Disapprove	30	27	23	24	28	20	54	26	11
DK/NA	26	15	16	19	18	17	19	19	16

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	48%	61%	36%	50%	53%	44%	50%	50%	
Disapprove	33	20	44	33	33	33	32	32	
DK/NA	19	18	20	17	14	24	18	17	
	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	COLL No	DEGREE Yes	WtBnAgn Evglcl	POL Lib	PHIL..... Mod	Con
Approve	48%	49%	50%	47%	50%	49%	29%	50%	59%
Disapprove	26	38	31	34	32	31	51	34	22
DK/NA	27	12	19	19	18	19	20	17	19

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Bolling is handling his job as Lieutenant Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	39%	47%	33%	37%	44%	33%	37%	49%	
Disapprove	20	15	27	18	19	20	19	20	
DK/NA	42	38	40	45	36	47	44	31	
	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	COLL No	DEGREE Yes	WtBnAgn Evglcl	POL Lib	PHIL..... Mod	Con
Approve	36%	41%	39%	43%	32%	44%	24%	38%	49%
Disapprove	26	20	16	20	19	18	34	20	12
DK/NA	38	40	45	37	49	37	42	42	39

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ken Cuccinelli is handling his job as Virginia Attorney General?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	49%	71%	28%	50%	52%	46%	52%	40%	
Disapprove	31	14	46	31	34	29	30	33	
DK/NA	20	15	25	19	15	25	17	27	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Approve	45%	49%	52%	52%	44%	60%	25%	42%	72%
Disapprove	29	34	30	27	38	23	59	37	11
DK/NA	26	17	17	21	18	17	16	21	17

13. Regardless of how you feel about Bob McDonnell's policies, would you say you like or don't like Bob McDonnell as a person?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Like	57%	72%	43%	61%	64%	50%	59%	57%	
Don't Like	16	7	28	13	17	16	14	21	
DK/NA	27	21	29	26	19	34	26	22	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Like	51%	58%	61%	57%	57%	64%	37%	60%	66%
Don't Like	22	17	12	17	16	11	37	16	7
DK/NA	27	25	27	26	28	25	27	24	27

14. And regardless of how you feel about Bob McDonnell as a person, would you say you like or don't like most of Bob McDonnell's policies?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Like	48%	74%	21%	51%	54%	43%	52%	40%	
Don't Like	33	13	55	31	34	32	31	38	
DK/NA	19	13	23	17	13	25	17	22	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Like	40%	49%	54%	49%	47%	61%	25%	42%	72%
Don't Like	39	35	27	31	35	24	59	36	15
DK/NA	20	16	19	19	18	15	16	22	13

15. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Virginia today?
Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Very satisfied	11%	16%	6%	11%	12%	9%	11%	12%	
Smwht satisfied	57	61	51	59	58	56	59	56	
Smwht dissatisfied	23	17	31	20	21	24	22	24	
Very dissatisfied	8	4	11	9	8	9	8	8	
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	-	2	1	1	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Very satisfied	11%	8%	13%	11%	11%	11%	5%	8%	17%
Smwht satisfied	58	58	55	56	59	60	43	62	61
Smwht dissatisfied	23	24	23	23	23	19	39	22	14
Very dissatisfied	7	9	8	10	7	9	11	6	8
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob McDonnell is handling the state budget?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	50%	68%	32%	52%	58%	42%	54%	38%	
Disapprove	34	20	48	33	32	36	31	45	
DK/NA	16	12	20	15	10	22	15	17	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Approve	41%	51%	55%	50%	51%	61%	24%	48%	67%
Disapprove	42	37	28	35	33	28	57	36	20
DK/NA	17	12	17	16	16	11	18	16	12

17. How much have you heard or read about the new state budget agreed to by Governor McDonnell and the state legislature? A lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
A lot	11%	7%	11%	15%	13%	10%	11%	14%	
Some	45	51	41	46	49	41	46	37	
Not much	30	28	34	28	28	32	30	38	
Nothing at all	13	13	14	10	10	16	13	10	
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
A lot	7%	12%	14%	10%	14%	10%	12%	11%	11%
Some	40	51	43	42	49	50	40	44	51
Not much	32	29	30	33	26	28	32	31	27
Nothing at all	21	9	12	15	10	13	15	14	11
DK/NA	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the state budget agreed to by Governor McDonnell and the state legislature?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Approve	40%	55%	23%	45%	50%	31%	44%	33%	
Disapprove	30	14	49	27	28	32	27	40	
DK/NA	29	30	29	27	22	37	29	27	
	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	COLL No	DEGREE Yes	WtBnAgn Evglcl	POL Lib	PHIL..... Mod	Con
Approve	33%	44%	43%	41%	40%	49%	20%	40%	54%
Disapprove	34	31	26	30	30	24	52	32	16
DK/NA	33	26	31	29	30	27	28	28	30

19. Do you think the new state budget is fair or unfair to people like you?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Fair	43%	57%	34%	46%	52%	36%	47%	38%	
Unfair	32	23	44	29	28	36	28	40	
DK/NA	25	20	23	25	20	29	25	23	
	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	COLL No	DEGREE Yes	WtBnAgn Evglcl	POL Lib	PHIL..... Mod	Con
Fair	40%	44%	47%	41%	49%	49%	29%	44%	54%
Unfair	31	36	28	36	26	29	45	33	23
DK/NA	28	20	25	24	25	22	26	23	24

20. What do you think about the cuts in state spending in the new budget?
Do you think the cuts in state spending go too far, not far enough or are they about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Too far	29%	14%	47%	26%	25%	33%	25%	41%	
Not far enough	24	31	13	25	27	20	24	19	
About right	29	37	23	32	34	25	32	27	
DK/NA	18	18	17	17	14	21	19	12	
	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	COLL No	DEGREE Yes	WtBnAgn Evglcl	POL Lib	PHIL..... Mod	Con
Too far	30%	31%	27%	29%	29%	22%	49%	32%	15%
Not far enough	23	28	22	25	22	27	16	20	32
About right	29	26	33	28	32	32	14	31	37
DK/NA	18	16	18	17	18	19	21	17	16

21. Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same-sex couples to get married?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Support	41%	21%	59%	42%	38%	44%	42%	35%	
Oppose	52	74	35	50	55	49	53	55	
DK/NA	7	5	6	8	7	6	5	10	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Support	63%	42%	28%	34%	52%	16%	81%	46%	15%
Oppose	29	53	65	60	41	81	15	48	78
DK/NA	7	4	7	6	6	3	4	6	7

22. Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to adopt children?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Support	51%	33%	67%	52%	49%	54%	53%	48%	
Oppose	43	61	30	41	45	40	42	46	
DK/NA	6	6	3	7	6	6	5	6	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Support	70%	55%	39%	43%	65%	31%	80%	60%	27%
Oppose	27	40	54	52	29	65	18	35	65
DK/NA	4	5	7	6	6	4	2	5	8

23. Currently in Virginia, state and church run adoption agencies can prevent an adoption to prospective parents based on their sexual orientation. Do you think that policy should be continued or ended?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	
Continued	42%	62%	26%	41%	46%	37%	43%	38%	
Ended	51	32	69	50	48	53	50	54	
DK/NA	7	6	5	9	6	9	7	8	
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....	
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con
Continued	25%	43%	49%	48%	32%	62%	21%	35%	62%
Ended	71	51	41	46	59	34	75	58	31
DK/NA	3	6	10	6	9	5	4	7	7

24. Do you think that: State-run adoption agencies should be allowed to prevent an adoption if the prospective parents are gay or lesbian or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk		
Yes	35%	52%	23%	32%	36%	33%	35%	34%		
No	59	43	72	61	58	60	59	58		
DK/NA	6	6	4	7	6	7	6	8		
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....		
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con	
Yes	18%	34%	43%	40%	26%	54%	17%	29%	52%	
No	79	61	48	53	68	39	81	65	41	
DK/NA	3	5	9	6	5	6	2	6	7	

25. Do you think that: Church-run adoption agencies should be allowed to prevent an adoption if the prospective parents are gay or lesbian or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk		
Yes	48%	63%	33%	49%	53%	43%	50%	43%		
No	45	32	60	45	41	50	44	51		
DK/NA	7	5	6	6	6	8	6	6		
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....		
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con	
Yes	38%	51%	49%	48%	47%	63%	30%	42%	65%	
No	57	44	41	45	46	33	63	50	30	
DK/NA	5	5	9	7	7	5	7	8	5	

26. As you may know, there is a ban on mining uranium in Virginia.
Some people say: There should be mining for uranium because of the economic benefits.
Others say: There should not be mining for uranium because of the environmental impact.
Which comes closer to your point of view?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk		
Shld be mining	41%	58%	27%	41%	48%	33%	43%	35%		
Shld not be mining	41	25	58	41	40	43	41	43		
DK/NA	18	17	16	18	12	24	16	22		
	AGE IN	YRS.....		COLL	DEGREE	WtBnAgn	POL	PHIL.....		
	18-34	35-54	55+	No	Yes	Evglcl	Lib	Mod	Con	
Shld be mining	35%	42%	45%	41%	41%	48%	22%	39%	55%	
Shld not be mining	54	39	36	39	46	33	62	46	24	
DK/NA	11	19	20	20	14	18	17	15	21	